

APRIL 2004 IRP E-NEWS

Brought to You by the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP)

The IRP mission is to join diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho.

IRP Committee Meetings – Thanks to the tremendous effort and input from numerous volunteers we're in full swing with a number of IRP committee meetings. A very successful joint meeting of the IRP **Leadership & Education/Workforce Development** Committees was held this week featuring President Kustra of BSU, Priscilla Salant of UI extension and Linda Webb from the Idaho 4-H program. Upcoming meetings include: April 6 - IRP **Economic Development** Committee Meeting, 10 am - Noon and April 16 - IRP **Environment** Committee Meeting, 9 am - Noon. Both meetings will have conference call participation available and be held at USDA State Office, 9173 West Barnes at the Black Eagle Center in the Blue Heron Building (near Overland & Maple Grove), Boise. For more information or to volunteer for one of the IRP committees please go to www.irp.idaho.gov.

Welcome LeAnn – IRP is pleased to announce that LeAnn Sullivan has accepted our part time position of administrative assistant. LeAnn and her family recently relocated from the Magic Valley where she had tremendous work experience with Sen. Larry Craig and Con Paulos. LeAnn was also an active member of the Hazelton Gem Community Team. Please be sure to introduce yourself to LeAnn or feel free to give her a call at 334-3131 or lsullivan@irp.state.id.gov.

CDFI Fund in Idaho - IRP and the Federal Reserve Bank were pleased to recently host Margaret D. Nilson at an outreach meeting in Idaho. Nilson is with the U.S. Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund and manages the Bank Enterprise Award Program as well as the Fund's Native American Initiatives. In Idaho there are three CDFI Funds that received over \$1.1 million in the last CDFI grant cycle. Idaho CDFIs include Neighborhood Housing Services (based in Boise but has statewide authority), the Pocatello Neighborhood Housing Services and the Idaho-Nevada Community Financial Institution. For the complete story go to www.irp.idaho.gov.

2004 Community Development Institute - The Idaho Department of Commerce and Association of Idaho Cities have announced the 2004 Northwest Community Development Institute will be held on July 18 – 23 at the Doubletree Riverside Hotel in Boise. The Institute is a three-year certification program that provides community and economic development practitioners with a formal training ground designed to address complex issues and increase effectiveness of existing and potential leaders. For registration information go to www.idahocities.org or call Mindy Hobson at 800-344-8594. For curriculum or scholarship information go to www.idoc.state.id.us or call Gloria Mabbutt at 334-2470.

Salmon & Rexburg Community Reviews - The next Idaho Community Review has been scheduled for Salmon on May 12 – 13. Salmon has decided to focus on Civic Life (emphasis on seniors and youth), Community Design and Identity (emphasis on land use planning, cultural heritage tourism and beautification) and Economic Development (emphasis on infrastructure and airport expansion). A Community Review will also be held in Rexburg on September 8-9. Rexburg has decided to focus on land use planning, community design & identity and civic life and community involvement.

Other Community Reviews? - If you are interested in having a review completed in your community you can find program details and an application at www.idahocities.org under 'Idaho Community Review'. The next available review will be in the first quarter of 2005. To be considered a complete application package must be submitted no later than July 1, 2004. For additional details contact Michael Shaw (208/344-8594 or mshaw@idahocities.org).

UI Extension Wins Leadership Grant - The University of Idaho Extension will work with the small northern Idaho communities of Orofino, Kamiah and Elk River to reduce local economic and population declines by strengthening each community's leadership, thanks to a new grant. The Northwest Area Foundation announced recently that the three communities were chosen to participate in the 18-month Horizons program designed to help small towns develop leaders to create a promising future and reduce poverty. To be considered, towns had to have a high poverty rate and a population of no more than 5,000. The \$352,000 Horizons grant will connect Orofino, Kamiah, and Elk River with a variety of resources from UI Extension and other state organizations. These include information, training and other assistance available from tribes, state government, and nonprofit groups. Contact Priscilla Salant at (208) 885-6983 or psalant@uidaho.edu.

The Canadian Consumer - Learn how Canadians differ from United States consumers.

Discover how culture shapes their buying decisions. Understand your Canadian customers better and improve your company's relationships across the border. Experts from Canada and Idaho will provide, insight, humor and the potential pitfalls of working with the Canadian consumer. The workshop will be held on **April 6** from 8 – 11:30 am. Registration is \$25. Co-sponsored by the Idaho Department of Commerce, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the Idaho Export Council, the workshop will be held in conjunction with Canada Week at Boise State University. For more information or a registration form contact John Nordstrom at 208-334-2470 or jnordstrom@idoc.state.id.us.

Subbasin Planning Meetings - The Lower Salmon and Middle Snake Subbasin Planning Teams are hosting a final series of public meetings on their respective draft management plans. The purpose of the meetings is get input on the document for each subbasin that includes a vision statement, objectives and strategies, and recommendations for future management of fish and wildlife projects in the Lower Salmon Subbasin and Middle Snake Subbasin. The meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8 pm at the following locations:

Tuesday, **April 6**: Grangeville—Super 8 Motel, 801 W. South First Street;

Wednesday, **April 7**: Riggins—Best Western Salmon Rapids Lodges, 1010 S. Main;

Thursday, **April 8**: McCall—Super 8 Motel, 303 S. 3rd Street.

Tuesday, **April 20**: 6:30-8 pm, County Courthouse, Cascade

Wednesday, **April 21**: 6:30-8 pm, Glenns Ferry Clinic meeting room

Thursday, **April 22**: 6:30-8 pm, USDA Service Center, Mountain Home

These draft plans will guide the Northwest Power Planning & Conservation Council's funding for fish and wildlife in subbasins across the State. For more information contact Pat Barclay, Idaho Council on Industry & Environment, at icie@cableone.net or (208) 336-8508.

Nonprofit Fund Development Training - The Idaho Nonprofit Development Center (INDC) presents *Nonprofit Fund Development: Current Trends and Methods*, a series of five training sessions with fundraising expert Laurel York-Odell. The remaining sessions include: **April 8 Building Your Membership**, **April 29 Foundation & Corporate Support**, **May 2 Major Gifts** and **June 10 Development Planning & Evaluation**. Cost is \$135 per session and INDC offers a

limited number of scholarships to participants from organizations in communities with populations less than 20,000. The registration fee includes lunch and two hours of personal consultation per organization to be scheduled separately with the trainer. Classes are limited to 20 participants and the deadline is eight days before each session. Please send registration form and payment to: INDC, 1509 E. Tyrell Lane, Suite A, Boise, ID, 83706; or via e-mail to amy@idahononprofits.org. All sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho in Nampa. For more information call (208) 424-2229 or go to www.idahononprofits.org.

April is Fair Housing Month - Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA), Idaho Association of REALTORS®, the Idaho Building Contractors Association, the Idaho Manufactured Housing Association, the Idaho Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Intermountain Fair Housing Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development are all pleased to announce that April is fair housing month. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or handicap. Regional housing roundtable meetings statewide will emphasize Fair Housing during April. Specialists from HUD, Idaho Legal Aid Services, local municipal government and legal experts will join in these discussions among hundreds of key housing stakeholders. IHFA will host Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST training **April 20-21** at the MK Plaza Auditorium in Boise. Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST is a HUD-sponsored initiative to promote compliance with the Fair Housing Act design and construction requirements. Housing professionals are encouraged to attend the free workshops. Register online at www.fairhousingfirst.org. For more information on the Fair Housing Act, visit IHFA's Web site: www.ihfa.org/research_fairhousing.html.

Brownfield Assessments - Local governments in Idaho can get help determining whether properties are environmentally contaminated, under a new Brownfield Assessment Program initiated by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Brownfields are abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The assessments, funded by a \$150,000 federal grant administered by DEQ, will be conducted this summer. Both petroleum and hazardous waste (non-petroleum) properties are eligible for assessment. To apply for a site assessment, local governments must complete and submit a questionnaire to DEQ by **April 16, 2004**. DEQ will evaluate and rank the applications and hire environmental consultants to conduct assessments of the highest-ranked properties. The application questionnaire and additional information are available on DEQ's Web site, or by contacting Keith Donahue, Brownfields Response Program Manager, at (208) 373-0495 or kdonahue@deq.state.id.us.

Serve Idaho Funding - Serve Idaho funds and supports high-quality programs with at least ten AmeriCorps members. The programs develop an ethic of civic responsibility in those who participate, while strengthening communities by helping to meet their service needs in the areas of the environment, education, public safety, homeland security, and other human needs. Programs provide opportunities for communities to define and solve their problems. Non-profits, local and state government agencies, faith-based and community organizations, Indian-tribes, school districts, institutions of higher learning and partnerships of these entities are eligible to apply for funding. Serve Idaho is offering a four-hour training on AmeriCorps program design, development and implementation on Tuesday, **April 16th** from 8 a.m. to noon in Boise. It will also include a review of the grant application, and cover the basics of e-Grants, our on-line application system. To reserve a spot at the training, call Martha or Renee at (208)

658 - 2063 by April 9, 2004. Reservation will be taken on a first-come-first-serve basis. Applications will be due in e-Grants on May 17th, 5 p.m. MST. Visit our website at www.serveidaho.org or the Corporation for National Service website at www.cns.gov to learn more about AmeriCorps programs and funding.

Firefighting Grants Available - Idaho Senator Mike Crapo is encouraging local Idaho fire departments to apply for \$750 million in grant funds. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is geared toward helping rural, urban and suburban fire departments increase the effectiveness of firefighting operations, improve firefighter health and safety programs, and establish or expand fire prevention and safety programs. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Fire Administration and funding is available to fire service personnel through the Department of Homeland Security Office for Domestic Preparedness. As in past years, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Application and Guidance are automated and are accessible from both the [ODP](http://www.odp.gov) and [USFA](http://www.usfa.gov) websites. Additionally, the websites contain other useful background information on the AFGP, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions and the currently scheduled AFGP workshops. Fire departments that have questions regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program should contact the fire grant help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov.

Council SBDC Office Opens – On April 1st Rick Vycital from the Small Business Development Center started meeting with business owners in the Council Business Park. His office will be located at 101 Council Ave #107 (the old Clearwater space). To book an appointment call Francee Wassard at 253- 4201, Linda Rogers at 253-6830 or Kim at 1-800-225-3615. All appointments will be in Council, not Boise unless specified by the clients. Depending on demand, Rick will be in Council twice a month or more if needed.

IDOC Rural Forums – Just a reminder that the Idaho Department of Commerce (IDOC), Gem Teams, and other rural development partners are meeting across the State for the annual regional Rural Development Partner Forums. These day long meetings will cover a variety of topics including a “sharing forum” where by the participating communities share their concerns, challenges, and successes. Each session will begin at 8:30 am and finish by 4:30 pm. The dates and locations of the remaining sessions are - **April 7** - Senior Center, Rathdrum; **April 29** - Iona Community Center; and **May 12** -Enders Hotel, Soda Springs. For a detailed agenda and registration form go to <http://www.idoc.state.id.us/idcomm/comdev/technical.html>. Please note that a \$10 pre-registration check must be sent to IDOC at least one week prior to the session you would like to attend.

Community Wind Energy Conference - A national conference about new models of wind energy development will be held in Minneapolis on **June 23-24**. The conference will cover local and regional economic benefits, innovative project options and more. For more information, go to www.windustry.org, call 612-870-3461 or email info@windustry.org.